



EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF PALM COAST “STAY HOME, STAY SAFE”

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization previously declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, Florida Governor Ron Desantis issued Executive Order number 20-51 directing the Florida Department of Health to issue a Public Health Emergency, and has subsequently confirmed that COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, the State Surgeon General and State Health Officer declared a Public Health Emergency exists in the State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020, Governor Ron Desantis directed the Director of the Division of Emergency Management to activate the State Emergency Operations Center to Level 2 to provide coordination and response to the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Mayor Holland issued a Proclamation for a local State of Emergency for the City of Palm Coast, which was extended on March 21, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Flagler County has its first confirmed positive case of COVID-19, and there are extreme medical testing limitations at the local, state and federal level which has caused a lack of information regarding diagnosis in the community;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness transmitted like other respiratory illness through person-to-person contact or by contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus. Persons infected with COVID-19 may become symptomatic anywhere from two to fourteen days after exposure. Symptoms include fever, cough or shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; and

WHEREAS, individuals with serious chronic health conditions and older adults are most at risk for becoming very ill with this disease; and

WHEREAS, the CDC and Florida Department of Health report that peer reviewed sources indicate that at this time the most effective way to combat COVID-19 is with social distancing to reduce transmission (e.g., quarantine and isolation); and

WHEREAS, a significant number of Floridians are at risk of serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, persons with mild symptoms and asymptomatic persons with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk; and

WHEREAS, a large surge in the number of persons with serious infection can compromise the ability of the healthcare system to deliver necessary healthcare to the public. Florida is experiencing a rapid increase in COVID-19 transmission that threatens the health of residents and risks overwhelming the healthcare system in Palm Coast; and

WHEREAS, the age, condition and health of a significant portion of the population in Palm Coast places it at risk of serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, persons with mild symptoms and asymptomatic persons with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk; and

WHEREAS, limiting the number of people who may gather in the City of Palm Coast is necessary for the protection of public health. The limitations on large gatherings and use of social distancing decreases the risk of COVID-19 transmission to our most vulnerable populations and is especially important for people who are over 60 years old and those with chronic health conditions due to their higher risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, this Proclamation will reduce the likelihood that many individuals will be exposed to COVID-19 at a single event, and will, therefore, slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community; and

WHEREAS, the CDC currently recommends mitigation measures for communities experiencing an outbreak including staying at home when sick, staying home when a household member is sick with respiratory disease symptoms if instructed to do so by public health officials or a health care provider; and

WHEREAS, the health safety and welfare of the City of Palm Coast residents, business, and visitors and staff is of the utmost importance to the City and additional future measures may be needed to protect the community; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38(3), Florida Statutes, provides authority for local governments, such as the City of Palm Coast, to take actions in emergency situations including taking whatever action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, Section IV of the City Charter City Council states:“(4) *Powers and duties of the Mayor (a) Powers. In addition to the regular powers invested in any other Council member, the Mayor shall: be recognized by the governor for purposes of military law; have the power to declare an emergency situation;*” .

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Mayor of the City of Palm Coast, that:

1. The City of Palm Coast issues this call to action, and requests that all individuals currently living within the City of Palm Coast voluntarily comply with the terms of this Order.
2. It is requested that citizens limit their movement and gatherings with other individuals who are not in their immediate family. Individuals should leave their residence only to perform essential activities such as:
 - a. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including but not limited to pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home.
 - b. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example, food, pet supply and other household consumer products.
 - c. To perform work providing essential products and services.
 - d. To care for a family member or pet in another household with minimal contact.
 - e. To travel to and from one place of employment, however all efforts should be made to work remotely. If remote work is not available, businesses should adhere to the CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to plan and respond to Coronavirus Diseases 2019 (COVID-19).
3. The City requests that all residents observe Social Distancing Requirements, including maintaining at least six foot distancing from other individuals for no longer than ten minutes, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using a hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces and not shaking hands.
4. The City requests that all businesses perform "minimum basic operations", including the following, providing that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements while carrying out such operations:
 - a. The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits or for related functions.
 - b. The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.
5. The City requests that all Nursing Homes, Long Term Care Facilities and Assisted Living Facilities prohibit non-essential visitors from accessing their facilities.
6. The City of Palm Coast shall hereby hold in abeyance any rules or restrictions, such as hour limitations or weight restrictions that impede, slow down or otherwise delay the ability of deliveries of grocery, pharmacy, medical supplies and equipment and essential items used or consumed by the public.

7. This Proclamation shall terminate upon the termination of the City of Palm Coast COVID-19 State of Emergency.

Signed this 22nd day of March, 2020.

Attest:



Virginia A. Smith, City Clerk

CITY OF PALM COAST, FLORIDA



Milissa Holland, Mayor

